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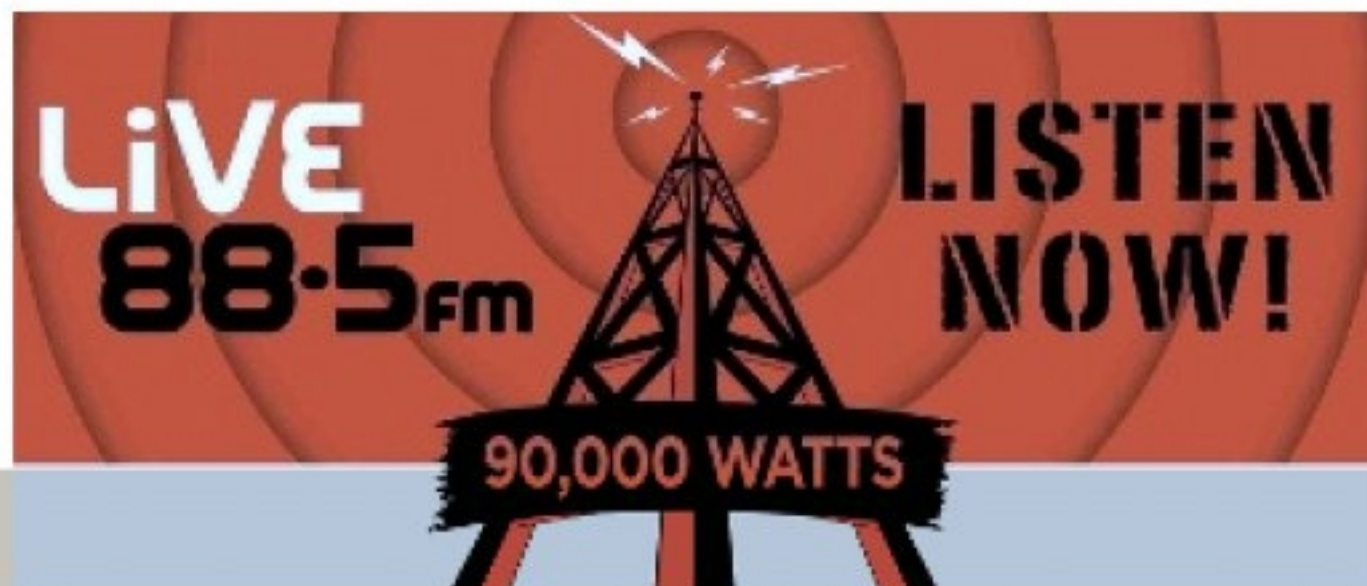
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FULL SPEED AHEAD

Council OKs second phase of light-rail project, all \$3.6B of it **metroNEWS**



LRT ILLUSTRATION COURTESY CITY OF OTTAWA

Taming a Phoenix at last (sort of)

PAY SYSTEM

Public-service rep skeptical of government's upbeat update



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

The government's deeply troubled Phoenix pay system

may finally be rising from the ashes.

For the first time, the number of resolved cases is exceeding the number of new cases, according to the department responsible for the issue.

Marie Lemay, deputy minister of Public Services and Procurement, spoke at a news conference on Wednesday and said the government is making headway.

"We're starting to process

more transactions," she said. "We have started to see our numbers move in the right direction."

Lemay said parental-leave transactions, which have been a major problem area, would now be dealt with within 20 days 95 per cent of the time, which meets the government's target.

The government's public website actually shows that standard was not met this month, but Lemay said those



We are starting to see our numbers move in the right direction.

Marie Lemay

figures include older cases that are still in the backlog.

"The vast majority of transactions that are outside of our service standards have been addressed and people will start receiving their top-up payments," she said.

Students, who were badly hit by the Phoenix system last year, should fare better this year, she said.

Debi Daviau, president of the Professional Institute of the Public Service, said her members are not yet satisfied.

"If they're turning a corner, employees need to start to see that their cases are being resolved or it's not very credible," she said.

Daviau said the cases the union is involved with are not being solved any faster that they have seen previously and if that doesn't change in a month's time it will be very worrying.

"We still have the same very low ratio of formal pay cases being resolved."



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Making their voices heard

POLITICS

Women take over parliament at Daughters of the Vote event



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

When Ally Freedman took her seat in the House of Commons, she carried generations of tradition with her and brought a perspective not often heard in Canada's parliament.

The Metis woman from Ottawa was among 338 young women participating in Equal Voice's Daughters of the Vote initiative Wednesday.

Freedman said she wanted to represent not only her gender, which has a disproportionately small share of the House, but also her culture.

"I decided to have my eagle feather, my sage, my beaded earrings and my moccasins," she said. "I really wanted to put my culture on display and reclaim that space as an Indigenous space."

She said that, when sitting in the House seat for Ottawa Centre, she thought of the



Ex-prime minister Kim Campbell addresses the Daughters of the Vote event in the House of Commons on Wednesday. The event brings together 338 women delegates, each representing a constituency, to occupy their MP's seat as the representative for their community. THE CANADIAN PRESS

residential schools system and other tragedies visited upon Indigenous people in Canada that were approved in Parliament.

But she also thought about progress.

"That's also the same room



I think this event is really going to inspire all of us.

Ally Freedman

where they decided to give us back our rights, apologize and realize the mistakes they made," she said.

Freedman said the Daughters of the Vote initiative affirms that women's voices and Indigenous voices need

to be better heard.

"I am definitely going to one of these days put my name on the ballot," she said. "I think this event is really going to inspire all of us."

Nancy Peckford, executive director of Equal Voice, said that's exactly what her organization was hoping to accomplish.

"It's the moment we worked for, for the past 12 months, to see those 338 delegates filling every seat in the House of Commons."

After taking their seats, the delegates were addressed by former prime minister Kim Campbell, as well as all the major-party leaders.

Interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose told the delegates not to sell themselves short and to get their names on ballots soon.

"There is no doubt in my mind that you can compete and you can win," she said.

"No one will remember that you lost. They will remember you had the courage to run."

Peckford believes the event will have a lasting influence on the diversity of Parliament.

"We have no doubt it will be life-changing and that you will see some of that cohort, among many others ... seek elected office."

METRO ASKED THREE DELEGATES

What would it be like to sit in the House of Commons?



Alex Guevremont

It will be really impressive. To be seated in this place is really impressive and will feel like a real place.



Marilyn Verghis

For me as a young Canadian woman, especially a racialized Canadian woman it is really exciting to take that seat and recognize 100 years of women's participation.



Ninu Forrest

I have so much respect for the House of Commons and there is actually going to be more women in the House of Commons today than have been elected in all of history.

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It's a go for light rail part 2

TRANSIT

Extensions to Bayshore, Trim, and Bowesville due in 2023



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The \$3.6-billion second phase of Ottawa's light rail transit is moving full steam ahead.

City council approved the plan on Wednesday, after each councillor had a chance to weigh in on the massive project.

"We're building farther, faster than anyone thought possible six years ago," said Mayor Jim Watson.

Watson called for co-operation among regions — west, east and south — to make the system work and turn "Ottawa the old to Ottawa the bold."

Stage 2, expected to be completed in 2023, would bring 70 per cent of Ottawa residents within five kilometres



All currently approved LRT lines are shown on this City of Ottawa map. The thin red and green lines show Stage 2 routes, which council approved on Wednesday. CONTRIBUTED

of light rail.

The project will expand the Confederation Line west to Bayshore and east to Trim. The Trillium Line will extend south to Bowesville and include a link to the Ottawa Airport. Widening Highway 174 in the east end is

also part of the project.

The city is still waiting on a funding announcement from the federal government, but Watson said he has been assured it will be announced before the end of May.

While the council vote was

unanimous, several councillors spoke of concerns in their wards.

Kanata North Coun. Marianne Wilkinson said she was "holding her nose" to go through with the vote.

"I still am not happy that

you're sending it all the way through Orleans before you even get to the edge of Kanata," she said. "We need to look very hard at how we can get to the other areas because the west end is growing very quickly now."

COUNCIL

Link to Gatineau on radar

While Ottawa's light rail system will expand east, south and west in the next six years, there are no plans to send it north, into Gatineau.

Not yet.

On Wednesday city council directed staff to formalize talks with Gatineau politicians about using the Prince of Wales Bridge as a rapid-transit conduit between the cities.

"So many people live in Ottawa and work in Gatineau and vice versa," Mayor Jim Watson said. "It just makes good sense."

Currently around 60,000 commuters travel between Ottawa and Gatineau on a typical weekday. That demand is expected to increase by 65 per cent by 2031, according to the city.

Unlike the LRT projects already underway, a light rail line to Gatineau would cross an interprovincial border. It would also require more funding from the federal government, Quebec government and Ontario government.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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Saturdays: 9 am to noon (1 Level)

FULL TIME

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FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (6 LEVELS)

March 20 to April 13, 2017

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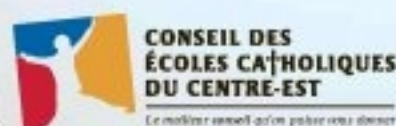
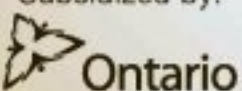
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COURT

Excessive-force cases tough for prosecutors: Ex-SIU head



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Prosecuting police officers is more difficult than prosecuting members of the general public, according to the former head of Ontario's Special Investigations Unit.

The SIU laid manslaughter charges this week against Ottawa Const. Daniel Montsion in the death of Abdirahman Abdi.

Ian Scott, who from 2008 to 2013 was head of the unit, which investigates serious injuries, deaths and sexual assaults involving police, said that cases, like Montsion's, in which the officer's use of force is at issue are challenging for juries.

"When those charges are laid, it is sometimes a difficult matter to distinguish between what is excessive use of force and what is a reasonable use of force," he said.

Scott said he laid 49 criminal charges during his time with the unit. When he left the unit, 20 of those cases were still underway, 17 had either been withdrawn or resulted in acquittals, and 12 had led to convictions.

He said that, because officers



Const. Daniel Montsion is seen kneeling by Abdirahman Abdi outside his apartment building at 55 Hilda St. YOUTUBE

The real game changer in this whole area is video.

Ian Scott

have the authority to use force, the public can sometimes want to side with the officer.

And, he said, the officers usually have good lawyers.

"None of them are represented on legal aid certificates."

Scott said, however, that cellphone-video evidence, which in recent years has played a key role in many excessive-force cases, could alter the balance.

"The real game changer in this whole area is video."

He pointed to the Toronto shooting of Sammy Yatim by Const. James Forcillo, which was captured by bystanders and by cameras on a TTC streetcar.

"I laid the murder charge in the Forcillo case, and it was largely based upon the video imagery that came out of that case."

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West-end opts for free street parking

TRANSPORTATION

Hoods struggle with traffic while shops thrive



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Keep your change in your pocket — free parking in Westboro and Hintonburg is still in effect.

Around 37 per cent of shoppers in the area use a car, according to a study done by the local Business Improvement Area. In Westboro, most drivers said it took them less than five minutes to find parking, while in Wellington West over half said it took between five and ten minutes.

"We have anecdotal evidence that customers arrive in the stores and tell the merchants they're not going to shop there

anymore because it's just too hard to find parking," said Coun. Jeff Leiper, who has been examining the situation.

One of the solutions proposed was introducing parking metres on the busy main streets. But, Leiper said merchants expressed concern that expensive parking would dissuade people from visiting. Many residents also said they were worried that paid parking on main streets would mean more cars trolling residential streets for free spots.

Leiper will present the findings at to the transportation committee on April 5, recommending that free parking remain.

In Westboro a 90-minute maximum parking time limit will be introduced along Richmond Road. Up to 23 new spaces will be added to the neighbourhood by introducing curbs and formalizing spots.

Further along Wellington West, another strict 90-minute time limit will be introduced on multiple streets.



Free parking in Hintonburg is still in effect. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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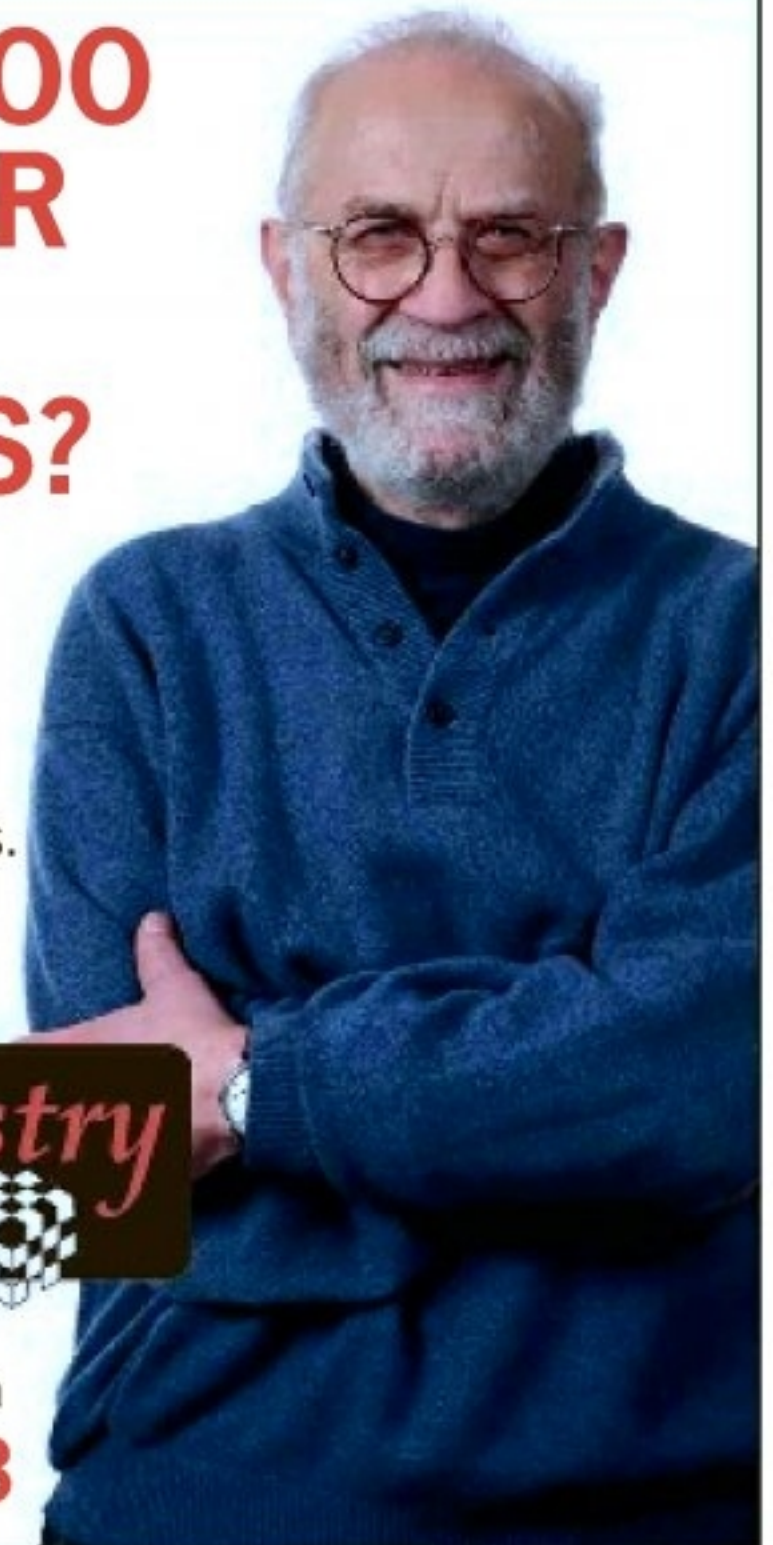
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ANIMALS WHY DID THE SALAMANDER CROSS THE ROAD? The Jefferson salamander, an endangered amphibian found only in southern Ontario, has been dodging cars as it crosses the road on its annual march to breeding ponds. Starting Thursday, the salamanders will not have to worry about traffic as Burlington, Ont. will shut down part of a road to allow for their safe passage. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Still no pay equity for all

EQUALITY

Liberals won't move on legislation until 2018

Statistics Canada says that more women are in leadership roles in the public sector where pay equity is the law than in the private sector, where similar rules don't apply.

The report from the national statistics office released on International Women's Day says that gender parity existed in the public sector in 2015, when 54 per cent of legislators and senior government managers and officials were women.

The percentage of women in similar positions in the private sector was 25.6 per cent, the report says. The number of women in the workforce has risen considerably over the past 70 years, jumping rapidly between the 1950s and 1990, but rising at a slower pace since then.

As of 2014, women's labour force participation reached 82 per cent, Statistics Canada says, compared with 91 per cent for men, narrowing a gap that was more than 70 percentage points

in the early 1950s.

In 2015, just over half of Canada's women worked in traditionally female occupations: teaching, nursing, social work, clerical positions, or sales and services, compared with 17.1 per cent of men — figures that have changed little over the last 30 years.

Women remain outnumbered in natural and applied science occupations that usually require a university degree.

As a result, women tended to occupy lower-paying jobs and earned less overall than men: Statistics Canada calculated that women earned 87 cents for every dollar earned by a man. Looking across 46 occupation groups, Statistics Canada found that women's wages would rise on average by \$2.86 per hour if men and women were paid equally.

The Liberals won't move on pay equity legislation until 2018 at the earliest with the federal labour minister saying the law is complicated. Patty Hajdu said the government doesn't want to impose burdens on employers. Meanwhile, the government is focusing on skills training targeting women who go into non-traditional fields, like the sciences and mining, Hajdu said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Road rage attacker breaks woman's arms

Edmonton police say they are investigating tips as they search for a man who is accused of breaking a woman's arms with a crowbar in a vicious road rage attack.

Police spokesman Scott Patison says it appears the man was aiming for the women's head Tuesday morning.

Police say the 34-year-old

woman honked her horn as she was passing a car that was stopped in the street where she was trying to make a turn.

When she got out of her vehicle, police say, the man ran up to her, striking her on both arms with a crowbar.

The woman was taken to hospital and underwent surgery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PARLIAMENT HILL

Advocates call for release of Canadian jailed in Cairo

For more than a decade, Canadian Mohamed El Attar has been locked inside the notorious Tora Prison on bizarre charges of being an Israeli spy while few have fought for his freedom.

A delegation of politicians, human rights advocates and a former senior member of Canada's spy service are trying to change that. On Thursday at a Parliament Hill press conference, they will call on the Liberal government to press Egypt for his release.

"I hope this will revive the case, bring it more attention, will put pressure on this Canadian government," said Rev. Majed El Shafie, founder of the humanitarian organization One Free World International.

The case is personal for El Shafie. He has never met El Attar but he was once held and tortured in Egypt for converting from Islam to Christianity and he believes that El Attar is also being punished for his religion. El Attar, who was born in Egypt

into a Muslim family, converted to Christianity and fled the country in 2002. He was given refuge in Canada, arguing that he was persecuted not just for his religion but also because he was gay.

El Shafie alleges that 46-year-old El Attar has been tortured in custody and that his case is based solely on a false confession.

The case against El Attar, who worked as a CIBC bank teller in Toronto, began when he flew to Cairo to visit friends and family in 2007. It was the first time he

had returned to his country of birth since leaving five years earlier. He was arrested as soon as he landed on New Year's Day.

El Attar's alleged crime was spying for Israel for several years.

Then foreign affairs minister Peter MacKay said after the trial that the Canadian government remains "concerned about a number of aspects of this case."

But the case soon fell off the political and media agenda and El Attar was left to languish.

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Fearless Girl stares down Wall Street's charging bull

WOMEN'S DAY

Iconic animal meets its match in new statue

A new statue of a resolute young girl now faces Wall Street's famous Charging Bull, erected by a major asset managing firm for International Women's Day to make a point: There's a dearth of women on the boards of the largest U.S. corporations.

State Street Global Advisors, the Boston-based investment giant, had the statue created to push companies to increase the number of women directors.

Artist Kristen Visbal's "Fearless Girl" drew crowds Wednesday that initially came to pose for pictures with the bull, but the novelty quickly became a New York hot spot.

The girl, sculpted in bronze, appears to be staring down the bronze bull, her hands firmly planted on her waist, ponytailed head held high.

"Know the power of women in leadership. SHE makes a



'The Fearless Girl' statue stands across from the iconic Wall Street charging bull statue in New York City on Wednesday. The statue was installed as part of a campaign to pressure companies to add more women to their boards. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

difference," reads a plaque at her feet.

Twenty-five per cent of the Russell 3000 — an index of the nation's largest companies — have no women on their boards, according to State Street, which manages many of their assets.

According to ISS Analytics, a business research firm, just 16 per cent of board seats on

companies in the Russell 3000 are held by women; the average board of directors has eight men and one woman.

This week, McCann New York, a top advertising agency, installed the statue of the girl before dawn Tuesday, with a city permit for one week. Negotiations are underway for the piece to remain longer.



Why choose the Charging Bull as the site to place the girl?

"Well, we really wanted the bull to have a partner, and a partner that we thought was worthy of him," Heinel said. "And so we got a very determined young woman who is fearless and is willing to drive the change that we believe we need."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women go on strike across U.S.

Many American women stayed home from work, joined rallies or wore red Wednesday to demonstrate how vital they are to the U.S. economy, as International Women's Day was observed with a multitude of events around the world.

The Day Without a Woman protest in the U.S. was put together by organizers of the vast women's marches that drew more than 1 million Americans the day after President Donald Trump's inauguration.

The turnout on the streets this time was much smaller in many places, with crowds numbering

in the hundreds. There were no immediate estimates of how many women heeded the call to skip work.

Elsewhere, women joined in protest. In Rome, hundreds marched from the Colosseum to demand equal rights. Thousands marched in Istanbul, despite restrictions on demonstrations imposed since last year's failed coup. Germany's Lufthansa airline arranged for six all-female crews to fly into Berlin. Sweden's women's soccer team replaced the names on the backs of the jerseys with tweets from Swedish women. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global digest

Iceland requiring firms to prove equal pay

Iceland will be the first country in the world to make employers prove they offer equal pay regardless of gender, ethnicity or sexuality. The government said it will introduce legislation requiring employers to obtain certification to prove they give equal pay. AP

Nike unveils hijab for Muslim athletes

Nike has unveiled a hijab for Muslim female athletes.

The Nike Pro Hijab has been in development for a year, the company said. Athletes contributed input into the product, and figure skater Zahra Lari was among those who tested it. The hijab is made of light, stretchy fabric that includes tiny holes for breathability and an elongated back so it will not come untucked. AP

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CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET



Is the Trump White House providing Trudeau's government with much-needed political cover for problems of its own making?

Over his first 15 months as a rookie MP and Canada's finance minister, Bill Morneau has mastered the art of the platitude. That could come in handy when he presents his second budget later this month.

It does not matter what curve balls his opposition critics throw at him in question period these days, his answers never stray from the generic talking points that usually pass for government responses in the House of Commons.

Morneau is no more enlightening in his exchanges with the media.

About the budget he is set to unveil on March 22, the minister had this to say Tuesday: "We want to move forward on our agenda and continue to be ambitious in helping Canadians."

In the case of budget 2017, discretion may well be the better part of valour.

Based on the government's pre-budget chatter, this year's installment is not destined to be a watershed document.

For weeks, Liberal spin doctors have been dampening expectations. To hear them, it would be best to treat the second budget of the Trudeau era as a non-event.

It is widely expected to leave more questions unanswered about the fiscal course of the government than it addresses.

Morneau and others point south of the border and blame the uncertainty that is attending the arrival in the White House of an unpredictable administration to account for the government's tentative approach to its upcoming budget.

Indeed, since Trump's



Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau's upcoming budget is being billed as blasé, writes Chantal Hébert. THE CANADIAN PRESS

inauguration, the finance minister has spent an unusual amount of time in the U.S. on what the government has described as fact-finding missions.

There is no doubt that Donald Trump's presidency is a wild card about whose impact it is hard to come to an informed assessment.

But it is also true that it offers convenient cover for a government that is as long on ambitious talk as it is short on revenues to finance its promises.

Long before Trump's potential arrival in the White House was seen as a credible threat, it was clear that whatever big-ticket items had not made it into last year's first Liberal budget would be unlikely to find pride of place in subsequent ones.

The sluggishness of the world economy precedes Trump's victory. So do the

forecasts for a string of double-digit federal deficits that could easily stretch — if you believe Canada's parliamentary budget office — into the next mandate and beyond.

Morneau did not wait for Trump to win to start to shovel some federal spending forward.

Take health care. To make the pill of a 50 per cent reduction in the rate of increase of the health transfer to the provinces easier to swallow, the federal government upped its offer of more cash for mental health and homecare services last fall.

In total, it is committed to sweetening the provincial pot to the tune of about \$12 billion dollars over 10 years.

But the six provinces that have signed accords with Ottawa so far will see little of that funding upfront.

Based on the one-on-one

deals negotiated to date, Le Devoir extrapolated that Ottawa is poised to hand over not 10 per cent but rather less than 3 per cent of the 10-year envelope over the coming fiscal year.

It is not just on the budgetary front that the Trudeau government may be overstating Trump's impact on Canadian policy for its own reasons.

Take the refugees that have been showing up in greater numbers at various points along the border. Trump's determination to ban citizens from a handful of Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States has propelled them into the spotlight.

But when the Canadian Press investigated the phenomenon, it found that the trigger for the steady increase in the number of people crossing into Canada to apply for refugee status was Trudeau's arrival in power and the adoption of a more pro-refugee federal tone.

There is a legitimate government discussion to be had over the impact of Trump's agenda on Canada's economy and a prudent government would keep its options open enough to be able to adjust to whatever challenges arise from the policies of the new U.S. administration.

But it is nevertheless fair to ask whether the Trump White House is providing the Trudeau government with much-needed political cover for problems of its own making.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

Welcome to Feminist In-Fight where I, Vicky Mochama, put two feminist forces in the Equality Death Cage.



EMMA WATSON

THIS WEEK:



BEYONCÉ'S BEY HIVE

THE FEUD

After critics attacked Emma Watson for showing underboob in a Vanity Fair photoshoot, she responded by saying "Feminism is not a stick with which to beat other women." Beyoncé fans, more commonly known as the Beyhive, seized on the apparent hypocrisy. The fans, somewhat of a proxy for the notoriously media shy super star, pulled up a Watson quote from 2014 in which she questioned how Beyoncé could count herself a feminist while at the same time making sexy music videos.

Wins to Their Name

UN Women Goodwill Ambassador	Made Beyoncé the highest-paid black musician in history
------------------------------	---

Other Victories

Played Hermione and got to punch Draco Malfoy	Can count Meryl Streep and the entire Obama family among their ranks
---	--

Notable Quotables

"If I was going to be a princess, I'd be a warrior princess."	"It's Beyoncé's World and we are just living in it." - Anderson Cooper (Beyhive member)
---	---

You Don't Want This Trouble

Has the might of the United Nations behind her	Has the might to flood your social media feeds with lemon emojis
--	--

On Defence

Watson's full quote begins: "I'm quite nervous to bring it up because I still haven't really formulated by my own ideas about it..." So she knew she was on shaky territory, but still tried thinking out loud.	Prominent feminists constantly go after Beyoncé for not being the perfect feminist, and that gets tiring. Black feminists are especially tired. Like, Rip Van Winkle Tired.
---	---

Vicky, In Charge of Feminism, Decides

The Beyhive wins. The Hive always wins.

Credit to Emma Watson for engaging with the criticism by posting the full interview, but the United Nations can't handle the co-ordination of the Beyhive. They are a digital Swiss Guard who will die defending Beyoncé; Hermione fans could never.



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What matters in a 'garbage soul'

NON-FICTION

Scaachi Koul's 'catalogue of misery' sure to strike a chord

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Scaachi Koul didn't set out to write *One Day We'll All Be Dead and None of This Will Matter*. She began working on her personal essay collection two years ago, at age 24, intending the book — which she refers to as "a catalogue of misery" — to be a much lighter read. But when Koul's editors at Doubleday Canada pushed her to dig deeper into her "garbage soul," the underlying tenor of the book shifted.

"It's a lot about loneliness and trying to make a connection, and it's a lot about how your history informs where you're going," Koul says. "I'm happy where it went, but sometimes you do need an editor to tell you that you don't have to be glib all the time. That was a hard lesson for me."

Those who follow Koul's work as an editor at BuzzFeed or on Twitter know that she's an all-caps force who doesn't suffer fools or anonymous online trolls gladly.

The sly, cutting sarcasm — and the misery — still reverberate through *One Day We'll All Be Dead*, but they've been tempered, leaving breathing room for Koul to share more



With the internet, you can yell at me and it costs you nothing. I don't know what they can say that I haven't heard already.
Scaachi Koul

Writer Scaachi Koul says *One Day We'll All Be Dead and None of This Will Matter* is "a lot about loneliness." CONTRIBUTED

vulnerable observations of her life and her roles as a young woman, a girlfriend, a best pal and a daughter of Indian immigrants. She wrestles with Western beauty standards and ethnic stereotypes, and the horrifying reality of rape and surveillance culture, familiar to any woman who has spent a night at a bar watching her drink in fear of getting roofied.

"It's much easier to write down an anxiety or a fear you have, but then cut the tension

with a joke. There are portions of the book where I didn't do that. People were telling me sometimes you have to let a moment land," says Koul, who describes the feeling of releasing the book as being akin to photocopying your diary and handing it over to a gang of junior-high girls.

"As much as my instincts were telling me to say, 'Here's a terrible thing that happened, but don't worry, everything's fine,' that's not always the right

move. Writing generally is an exercise in being insecure. Of course, it feels uncomfortable and exposing."

Koul also didn't anticipate that her relationship with her family would become the heart of *One Day We'll All Be Dead*. Each chapter opens with an email exchange with her father, whose own surly charm will be familiar to anyone who follows Koul on Twitter. Although Koul talks about the specific ways in which she's inherited

her parents' anxieties and the generational disconnect she feels as a child of immigrants, there's a universal quality to her interactions with her family that is reminiscent of American humorist and essayist David Sedaris, whose writing she loved from a young age.

"I have to write like they're already dead, otherwise every essay will come out as very stilted. I'm sure there's stuff that will make them uncomfortable reading it," Koul says. "I don't

think my dad wants to read a chapter about my pubic hair, so I won't recommend it. My mom will read it and she'll cry, but she'll get over it."

One group of readers that Koul isn't worried about is the legion of online trolls that have been harassing her for the past few years. In *One Day We'll All Be Dead* she covers the personal toll the threats have caused, but says she doesn't expect that they'll actually make an effort to buy, let alone even pick up her book.

"There's a fee to enter. With the internet, you can yell at me and it costs you nothing and so that's where they live," she says. "I'm not super-concerned, and honestly at this point, I don't know what they can say that I haven't heard already. Do your best. What can you say at this point to take this away from me?"

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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Hard Powder, an action movie in the early stages of production, had applied to Parks Canada for permission to film some scenes in Banff, above, and the Columbia Icefields. GETTY IMAGES

Film barred over First Nations storyline

PRODUCTION

Parks Canada blocks shoot in Banff after concerns raised

A movie production team was denied permission to shoot in the Rocky Mountain national parks after Parks Canada staff learned the film's plot involved an Indigenous gang leader.

"They expressed a real concern that this was not something they would favour," said Mark Voyce, location manager for a film project that had been scheduled to start shooting later this month.

Voyce is working for Michael Shamberg, a film producer whose past credits include movies such as *Erin Brockovich*, *A Fish Called Wanda*, *Garden State*, *Gattaca* and *Get Shorty*.

Shamberg is currently working on a project called *Hard Pow-*

der, a crime drama ostensibly set in a Colorado ski town.

Action star Liam Neeson is to play an honest snowplow driver whose son is murdered by a local drug kingpin. He then seeks to dismantle the cartel, but his efforts spark a turf war involving a First Nations gang boss, played by First Nations actor, musician and Order of Canada member Tom Jackson.

Director Hans Petter Moland had hoped to shoot scenes in Banff, the Lake Louise townsite and ski hill, and the Columbia Icefields.

"He was enamoured of the beauty of the Columbia Icefields," Voyce said. "He was very stubborn in insisting that if we were going to come here, that it was to shoot parts of these films in the national park."

Voyce, who has previously organized movie shoots in national parks from Newfoundland's Gros Morne to Pacific Rim on Vancouver Island, said the team began the application

process with Parks Canada in December. He said he believed that by last week, only a few details needed to be cleaned up and that permissions would be granted. Then, late last week, came a phone call.

"They phoned and asked, 'Is the leader of the rival gang in this picture First Nations?' We said yes. That became an obvious last nail in the coffin for us," he said.

"They didn't want to offend anybody. They (said they) would get back to us, but they had grave concerns over subject matter. They told us that in almost exactly those words."

On Monday, Voyce received a letter from Parks Canada listing eight requirements, including the possible need for an environmental assessment.

"We're looking to start filming on March 20 and can't really push our schedule," he said. "That, frankly, is a death blow for us."

Voyce said much of the information requested was included

in the original application.

In an email, Parks Canada confirmed it has concerns over the script.

"The Government of Canada is committed to reconciliation and nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous peoples, based on a recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership," said the response from spokeswoman Meaghan Bradley.

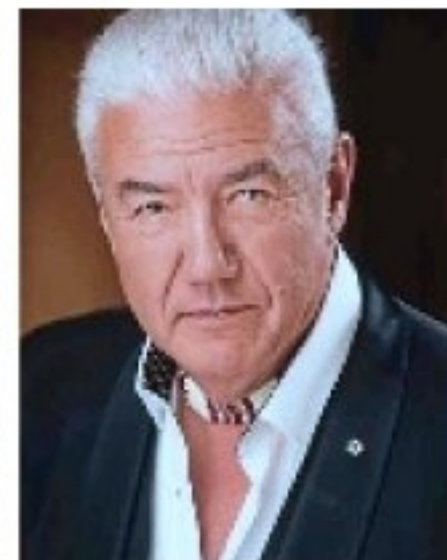
"In addition to some administrative details and outstanding documentation, Parks Canada's commitment to reconciliation and respect for Indigenous peoples was an important factor in the agency's final decision on this matter. Parks Canada maintains the right to refuse applications that are not in line with Parks Canada's mandate or operational priorities."

Such decisions are made locally by staff at the parks where the request is made, said Bradley.

The decision was made despite a letter of support from Jackson. "As a consultant to this pro-



Actors Liam Neeson, seen here in the 2011 film *The Grey*, and Tom Jackson star in *Hard Powder*. HANDOUT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



duction, I have taken a strong stance to ensure that the humility and integrity of First Nation roles do not cross the line of disrespect to my culture. I don't feel my culture is insulted even slightly by the script," he wrote.

"*Hard Powder* will be made regardless. The question is whether we deprive our own, or do we harvest for our own?"

Parks Canada receives many film requests every year and says it's not possible to accommodate them all. The mountain parks have a long history with movie and TV production, running from 1954's Marilyn Monroe-Robert Mitchum film *River of No Return* to scenes this year filmed for the popular series *Game of Thrones*. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DOCUMENTARY

No hiding places in Syria's horror as human cost is laid bare

It has been 18 months since the body of 3-year-old Aylan Kurdi washed up on the shore of Turkey, the premature end of a flight from Syria.

Nilufer Demir's photo of Kurdi, face down in the morning surf, prompted an outpouring of compassion for refugees around Europe and North America.

Now, voters in developed countries are rewarding candidates for smearing refugee resettlement as a cultural and security threat, despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Director Evgeny Afineevsky hopes his new documentary, *Cries From Syria*, which premieres at 10 p.m. EST Monday on HBO, can revive our collective sympathy.

"I tried to show the human side of these people, and their dignity," he said in an interview from Los Angeles. "Their dignity



Cries From Syria is an unsparing look at the country's war. HBO

is the essential thing."

Its HBO premiere and limited run in Los Angeles and New York movie theatres falls on nearly the sixth anniversary of Syria's murderous war, one so brutish, the U.N. has lost count of the death toll. Most

estimates put it over 400,000. The government is responsible for the bulk of those fatalities.

Cries From Syria is a difficult film that opens with a shot of little Aylan's body before rewinding to the popular uprising that spiraled into war.

The historical context given is thin, but in broad strokes, is factually correct. The Assad family had ruled Syria with an iron fist for four decades, and cracked down on dissent with militaristic violence.

Stitching together footage recorded by activists of the events in Syria with moving interviews from people who can only be described as survivors of President Bashar Assad's desperation to rule, Afineevsky delivers a wrenching expose of the crackdown that sparked the still-raging war.

A lot of the footage is graphic, and will be unfamiliar to those who have not followed Syria closely. Viewers will gaze on the disfigured corpse of a dead 13-year-old who, by opposition accounts, was kidnapped and tortured to death by the government's security services in 2011 to make an example out of protesters.



Without this brutality, you won't understand why these people are looking for shelter, why they take the boats and head for the seas

Director Evgeny Afineevsky

"Without this brutality, you won't understand why these people are looking for shelter, why they take the boats and head for the seas," said Afineevsky, whose 2015 *Winter on Fire: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom* was nominated for an Oscar for best documentary. "You want to feel the same thing that mothers feel, to lose their kids."

Individual cases are difficult

to verify, but prosecutors and human rights watchdogs have accumulated reams of evidence pointing to an industrial scale of torture and extrajudicial killings in the government's shadowy network of detention centres.

The film moves through the phases of the war, ending with a chapter called *In Between* that returns to the desperate attempts to flee the war. One of them, of course, belongs to Kurdi's family. The U.N.'s refugee agency says 5 million Syrians — nearly one-quarter of the country's pre-war population — are refugees. Once citizens, with jobs, belongings, homes, access to education and health care, they are now mired in the camps and the ghettos of Syria's neighbours. They are stateless, and they need onward passage to developed nations, for the sake of their children's futures if for nothing else.

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Engage in fun, messy activities that are typically too time-consuming to do during a typical week. Baking is a great opportunity to bond with your kids. iStock

Discover local events

Need a few last-minute ideas to fill up the March Break calendar? Check out these in-town activities:

Canada Agriculture and Food Museum

Throughout March the museum will focus on all things maple syrup, with related demonstrations, workshops

and of course, the creation of taffy on snow. (Throughout March Break)

The Doll's House by Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre

Catch this critically-acclaimed puppet theatre perform a charming tale based in a Victorian doll's house, at the Great Canadian

Theatre Company. (March 13-17)

Stanley Cup Tribute

Get up close and personal with the real Stanley Cup at Lansdowne's Aberdeen Pavilion and meet some NHL alumni along the way. (March 17)

-LIZ BEDDALL



Make taffy on snow this March Break. iStock

Spring into your break

CREATIVE IDEAS

Schedule fun, inexpensive activities for the kids

Liz Beddall

March Break brings with it a rare opportunity for many families to be all together at one time, sans interruption. So how can you make the very best of this break without busting up your bank account?

"When you go back through the Rolodex of your childhood memories, the things that often stand out are the simple nuances," says Alyson Schafer, parenting author and therapist. "Often the small, little, inconsequential things, but ones that had emotion behind them. It does not have to be the dazzling spectacle of Disney to make an impression."

Schafer suggests that when building the week's itinerary, parents might consider honouring one member of the family every day of the week. On that special day the family will engage in the person's favourite outdoor or at-home activities, watch their home videos and eat their favourite foods.

"Doing this empowers kids to come up with creative ideas that the parents might not have even thought of," says

Schafer. "You can map the week out together so everyone has felt they had a say."

"Also, take time to think about all the things parents don't want to do on a regular day because it's too messy or time-consuming," adds Schafer. "Maybe we're going to look to cook in the kitchen because we don't need to worry about the pancake batter splattering on the wall. Use this as a mentoring opportunity — how to use this and this, while you have a little more time and patience."

When it comes to getting away from the house, mommy blogger Maya Fitzpatrick of mayahoodblog.com says there's nothing like being a tourist in your own town.

"Exploring your own city is always a great way to spend any holiday as a family," says Fitzpatrick. "Take a look at a new park in your area, walk around a lake you've never visited before, visit new shops."

To get the kids involved, Fitzpatrick suggests asking them to place a finger on a map of your area to choose a neighbourhood to explore, or that they suggest a spot they've heard about from their friends.

"Come March, school feels like it's been on for ages and the weather is finally getting warmer," she says. "Everyone needs a little 'lift me up' and a break and quality time with loved ones is what everyone needs."

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Project overview

A trendy design with nine buildings, well-incorporated green spaces, arches and walkways create the perfect mixed-use community. Construction was completed 2015 and the site's unique style and location make it an envy-inducing place to live.

Location and transit

Westboro has an impressive amount of shops and restaurants. The neighbourhood has biking and walking trails, entertainment and recreation facilities. Nearly all necessities are within walking distance. Transit routes make commuting easy and the downtown core only is minutes away.

Housing amenities

There's a fitness centre, on-site shops and services, a party room and spa. Parking is available and buildings are connected through underground paths. Units have stainless appliances, hardwood flooring, quartz counter tops, nine-foot ceilings and large terraces.

In the neighbourhood

Westboro is a vibrant, exciting arts and culture community with theatre performances, galleries, music festivals and more. The site itself is spread over expansive, leafy grounds with walkways, communal spaces, rooftop terraces and views of the historic abbey behind. ILANA REIMER/FOR METRO

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The Dallas Cowboys will release longtime quarterback Tony Romo on Thursday, according to an Associated Press source



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LATE FLURRY BOOSTS BARÇA PAST PSG Barcelona players celebrate Sergi Roberto's stoppage-time goal, which gave them a 6-5 aggregate victory over Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday in front of their home crowd. Barça completed the biggest comeback in Champions League history after losing the first leg 4-0 last month and surrendering an away goal in the second. Though Barcelona was ahead 3-1 in the second match, it needed each of the three additional goals it scored from the 88th minute to win 6-1 and advance to the quarter-finals. JOSEP LAGO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Carleton women's team out for respect

BASKETBALL

Overshadowed Ravens on path to their first national title

Taffe Charles joked to his players that he knew they had a special team this season when they were on the front page of Carleton's student newspaper.

As far as Charles could remember, it was the first time in a decade.

"I'd been there for 10 years," said the coach. "I'm thinking 'You know what? Maybe we have a special group.' Because sometimes we'd have a good year, and it was the guys' team or something else (on the cover)."

The Carleton Ravens women's basketball team takes aim at its



Taffe Charles' Carleton women's team has lost just one game all season. CARLETON UNIVERSITY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

first Canadian university title this weekend in Victoria after stunning the Queen's Gaels to win the OUA conference last weekend.

The women have long played in the shadow of Carleton's men's team, which has racked up 12 national titles — more

than any school in the country — and competes for its seventh in a row this weekend in Halifax.

It was part of what intrigued Charles when he was hired as women's head coach in 2007.

"One of the reasons I wanted to take that job was to get them out of the shadows and get them some respect," Charles said. "It's taken a bit of time, we've done some good things. You want respect, but at the end of the day, you've got to earn it, and earning it in our environment

at Carleton means winning a championship."

Charles is a lifelong Raven, having been a standout player in the '90s — "My dad says I went to Carleton and never left," he laughed.

He took an assistant role with the women's team for three years before joining Dave Smart's staff with the powerhouse men's squad, where he helped lead the Ravens to five national titles.

Charles' women's team went 21-1 on the season, going undefeated after losing its opener. They took out McMaster in last weekend's OUA tournament before shocking the Gaels in the final in front of Queen's home crowd.

The Ravens, who boast the best defence in the country, limited the Gaels to 41 points, the school's lowest offensive output of the season.

The top-seeded Ravens open Thursday against the host Vikes, and can draw on their experience of playing in front of a hostile crowd last weekend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FREESTYLE SKIING

Canucks upset with bronze-medal runs

Mikael Kingsbury whacked his pole against his ski in frustration after his final moguls run at the world freestyle ski and snowboard championships Wednesday.

The 24-year-old from Deux-Montagnes, Que., knew bobbling the landing on his second jump would cost him. Kingsbury settled for bronze behind winner Ikuma Horishima of Japan and runner-up Benjamin Cavet of France.

"I felt just a little bit stiff before the bottom air and I got into the jump a bit faster than I expected," Kingsbury told reporters on a conference call later in the day.

"I tried my best to land in the best position that I could, but I was farther than I expected and I landed pretty deep. It cost me a lot."

Reigning Olympic women's champion Justine Dufour-La-



Mikael Kingsbury GETTY IMAGES

pointe of Montreal took bronze in women's singles. Britteny Cox of Australia won gold followed by silver medallist Perrine Laffont of France.

Dufour-Lapointe didn't make any glaring mistakes, but the 22-year-old didn't earn enough points from the judges to finish higher on the podium.

"I'm a little bit disappointed with my result because of course I wanted to win," she said. "I won't lie to you about that, but in the same way, but it's a sport that's judged." THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Roughriders land QB Young: Sources

It seems Vince Young will make his football comeback in Canada.

Young's agent, Leigh Steinberg, tweeted Wednesday he was en route to Regina to finalize a deal between his client and the Saskatchewan Roughriders. A source said Young was also making the trip and the Riders were planning to unveil him at a news conference sometime Thursday.

Young, who stands six-foot-

five, spent eight seasons in the NFL, completing 755 of 1,304 passes (57.9 per cent) for 8,964 yards with 46 TDs and 51 interceptions in 60 career games. The 33-year-old also ran 282 times for 1,459

yards (5.2-yard average) with 12 TDs but also lost 12 of 40 career fumbles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Young is a two-time Pro Bowler in the NFL.

IN BRIEF

Marshall signs with Giants

The New York Giants signed free agent receiver Brandon Marshall to a two-year contract on Wednesday.

The signing gives the Giants a talented outside receiver to play opposite Odell Beckham Jr.

Marshall, 32, who was released by the Jets last week, had 59 catches for 788 yards and three touchdowns last season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McEwen gets best of Jacobs

Manitoba's Mike McEwen remained atop the Tim Hortons Brier round-robin standings after the 12th draw by narrowly beating Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs 6-5 on Wednesday afternoon.

McEwen came through with a draw for two in the 10th end to improve to 6-1. He still had a match to play against Jamie Murphy of Nova Scotia in the evening.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



I was really proud of the girls, they sent a lot of (Queen's) people home disappointed.

Carleton coach Taffe Charles

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Flavourful Char Siu Pork



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Put down that takeout menu and impress your family with this intensely flavoured dinner instead.

Ready in 1 hour 35 minutes

Prep time: 1 hour 15 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves: 4

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 Tbsps honey
- 1 1/2 Tbsps hoisin sauce
- 1 1/2 Tbsps soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp Chinese wine (dry sherry can be substituted)
- 1 tsp white pepper
- 1/2 tsp five-spice powder
- 1/2 tsp sesame oil
- 1kg/2 1/4 lbs pork tenderloin
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 1/2 Tbsps vegetable oil

Directions

1. In a small saucepan, add honey, hoisin, soy sauce, Chinese wine, pepper, five-spice and sesame oil. Whisk the ingredients together over medium heat. Cook until it thickens and becomes sticky. Let the sauce cool completely.

2. Add the sauce, vegetable oil, and chopped garlic to the pork and marinate it the fridge for an hour and up to overnight.

3. To cook, barbecue for about 6 to 8 minutes on each side, or place on the highest rack of the oven set on broiler for 6 to 8 minutes on each side.

4. Let the meat rest for 15 minutes or so before slicing. Serve over rice and sautéed greens.

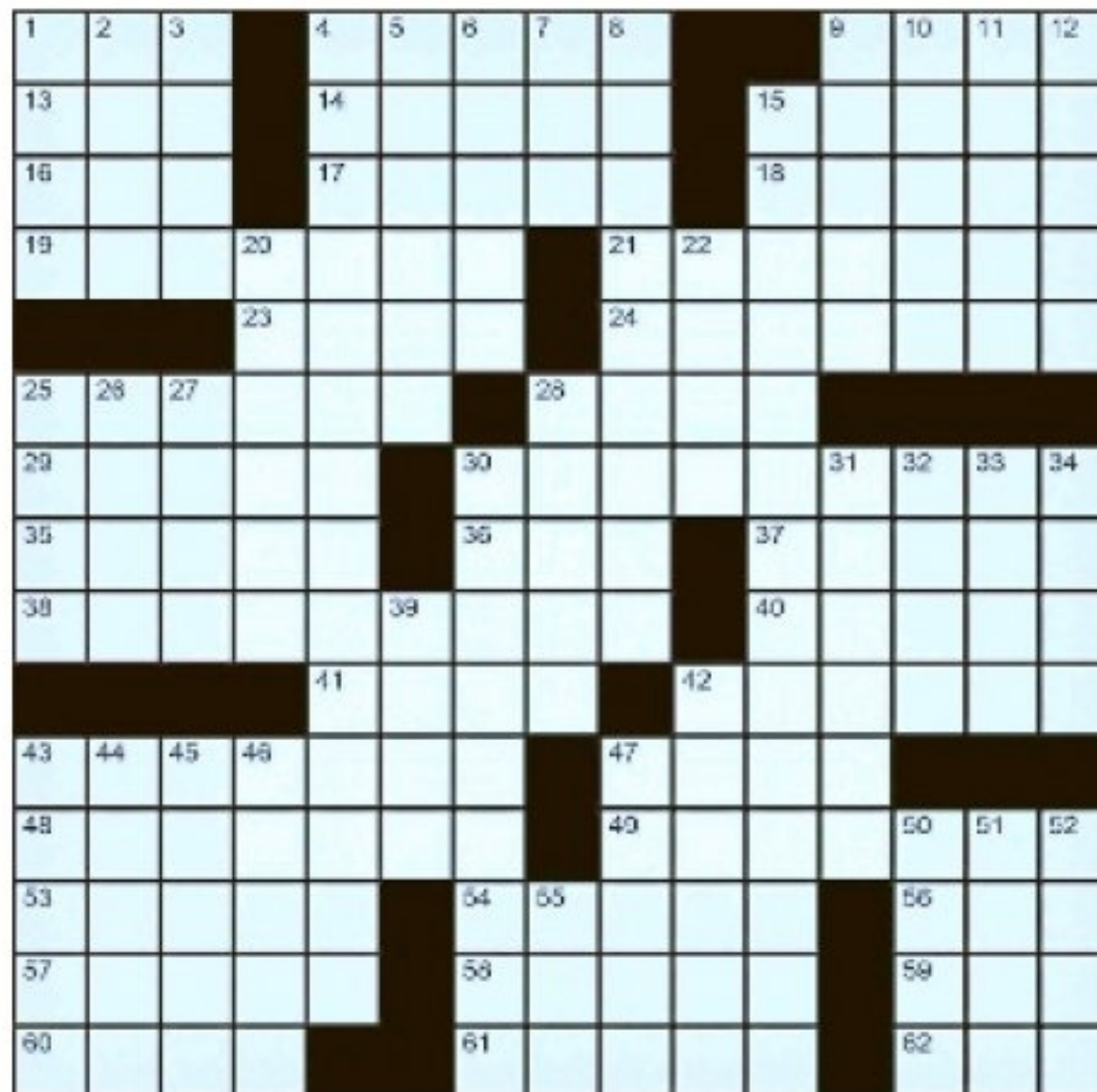
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Moo _ pork (Chinese cuisine dish)
4. Rapidly
9. Catherine of "The Dukes of Hazzard"
13. Arcade Fire frontman Mr. Butler
14. Mervyn _ "Madame Curie" (1943) director
15. "_, I Love You" by The Doors
16. Toward the ship's stern
17. "Rawhide" by Frankie _
18. Graceland legend
19. Life story movies
21. Iridescent
23. "What's Hecuba to him _ to Hecuba..." - Hamlet
24. Invention documents
25. Funny actor Jim born in Newmarket, Ontario
28. "2 Broke Girls" star Ms. Behrs
29. "You Bring Me Joy" singer Ms. Baker
30. Cosmetic dentists at times
35. Competitor
36. Possessor's contraction
37. Fix came-undone shoelaces
38. Little brewski: 2 wds.
40. Winnebago enjoyers, informally
41. Bellow
42. Discontinues
43. Mishandle: 2 wds.
47. Crevice-fill-



- ing wedge
48. Mott's beverage
49. Leonard Nimoy's iconic character: 2 wds.
53. Poe's bird
54. Manner of speaking
56. Fried dish need
57. Tennis great

- Chris
58. Gloria Swanson role, _ Desmond
59. Unexplained sky sighting, perhaps
60. Moray-like
61. Subway 'currency'
62. Place down

DOWN

1. Q-Tip, for one
2. Sound system sort, shortly
3. Poetic preposition
4. Alanis Morissette song that goes "My sweater is on backwards and inside out": 4 wds.
5. Just great
6. Originate
7. Pas pro
8. Surprising revelation: 2 wds.
9. Quebec, 'La _ Province'
10. _ and the Chipmunks
11. Mr. Eastwood

12. Giving-plants-water needs
15. Montreal-born Founder/CEO of Canadian bookstore chain Indigo: 2 wds.
20. Web gateway
22. Hors d'oeuvre spread
25. 1979: "Let's Go" by The _
26. Cartooning, for short
27. Kentucky Derby winner in 1972, _ Ridge
28. Edging choice for granite countertops
30. Perspective
31. Overhaul
32. Quebec 'summers'
33. Juste pour _ (Montreal comedy festival)
34. Legis. meeting
39. Concerning, cute-style
42. 1950s car trimming
43. Loose rock at a cliff's base
44. Percussion stick
45. "Bolero" composer Maurice
46. Beauty tool, with Board
47. Gloater's grin
50. "Mr. Holland's _" (1995)
51. _ au lait
52. Nautical mile
55. Scooby- _

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Be patient with family members today to avoid squabbles and arguments. (This is not a good way to start your day — or anyone else's.) Be chill.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you can get past some tension this morning, the rest of the day will be quiet and comforting. In fact, you will want to cocoon at home if you can.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Money disputes or an argument about something you own might occur this morning. Try to move past it so that you can enjoy a busy day full of errands and fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
People are touchy this morning. Give them a wide berth. Later in the day, you will be focused on money and cash flow. Ka-ching!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This morning it's easy to be grumpy. However, soon the Moon moves into your sign, which gives you an advantage over everyone else. Enjoy your good fortune.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Avoid morning arguments with a female acquaintance. Later in the day, do some research or find some privacy, and enjoy being on your own.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You like to keep the peace. Therefore, avoid arguments in the morning, because the rest of the day is warm and friendly.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Steer clear of sensitive subjects like religion, politics and racial issues this morning. Later in the day, bosses, parents and VIPs will talk about you for some reason.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Disputes about shared property might arise this morning. Let these go, because what you really want to do is get out and have a change of scenery today. Do something different.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be patient with partners and close friends this morning to avoid arguments. You might ponder how your values are different from the values of others. We are all unique.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today because the Moon is opposite your sign. This simply requires a little patience, tolerance and cooperation.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Avoid disputes at work this morning. You don't need this! Later today, you will play and schmooze with others, as well as delight in sports or playful activities with children.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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38' Home, The Chelsea 'B', 2,429 Sq.Ft. \$472,990
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38' Home, The Annex 'B', 2,621 Sq.Ft. \$482,990
Includes: 9' Ceilings on Main Floor, Hardwood on Main Floor, \$25,000 Off Purchase Price, \$25,000 At Décor & No Premium



Townhome, The Byward 'A', 1,839 Sq.Ft. \$316,990
Includes: 3 Stainless Steel Appliances, Granite Countertops in Kitchen and Bathrooms, A/C, Kitchen Backsplash, Oak Staircase, 6 Pot Lights, Frameless Shower Door and more



Townhome, The New Edinburgh 'B', 1,881 Sq.Ft. \$322,990
Includes: 3 Stainless Steel Appliances, Granite Countertops in Kitchen and Bathrooms, A/C, Kitchen Backsplash, Oak Staircase, 6 Pot Lights, Frameless Shower Door and more



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